

Public participation is a huge part of the permitting process and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on the SDEIS. This project is important to me because it can provide America with a domestically mined source of antimony and restore an abandoned mine site in need of repair.

Today, arsenic and antimony levels at the site are far beyond what is considered healthy for humans or aquatic life. Metals have been leaching into the ground and surface water around the site for years from mine waste that was left behind from legacy mining operations. The Stibnite Gold Project, as outlined in the preferred alternative, will improve water quality conditions at the site because Perpetua Resources plans to remove old mining materials. Of course, the project will contribute new mine waste. However, the SDEIS concludes Perpetua's design features and today's technology will reduce new impacts to water quality. There are environmental benefits to the Stibnite Gold Project and I believe the right checks and balances are in place to move the project forward.

As the U.S. Forest Service and other state and federal agencies review the 2021 Modified Mine Plan and determine the course of action, I encourage you to consider the positive benefits Perpetua Resources will have on Idaho, especially now that the company has reduced its environmental footprint and made further improvements to water quality. This truly is a win-win opportunity for Idahoans and the environment. After years of careful scrutiny by regulators and the community, it is time for us to make these benefits a reality.

Matthew Rhoades